

Creating Tools to Support Integrated Transportation and Resource Planning in New Hampshire

Audubon Society of New Hampshire (NHA), Total Cost: \$48,939, FHWA Share: \$24,464

Period of Performance: 20 months, Dates: September 1, 2008 – April 30, 2010*

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Project Goals

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire's (NHA) *Eco-Logical* project was designed to develop a set of data and tools to support the coordination of transportation and resource planning in New Hampshire.

Project Activities

The "Impact Assessment Framework" is a tool that will measure the impacts of transportation projects on natural resources. NHA also convened a Partnership Work Group (PWG) made up of representatives from resource groups and local governments. The purpose of the PWG meetings was to reach an agreement between all parties about the extent of transportation impacts on selected natural resources. NHA met with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to outline steps of the *Eco-Logical* process and map NHA's progress in collecting data and developing tools.

Key Accomplishments

The *Eco-Logical* grant has helped NHA work collaboratively with State and regional agencies, including an RPC and NHDOT. It has also enhanced NHA's capacity to facilitate partnerships between environment and transportation agencies. Through peer exchanges, NHA aspires to utilize *Eco-Logical* principles to expand its project to all of New England.

Challenges

A major challenge for NHA has been managing meetings with diverse participants and agenda topics. Participation at meetings has been inconsistent, requiring project staff to address the resulting gaps in knowledge by providing "recaps" at the beginning of meetings.

Project staff also found that the *Eco-Logical* approach conflicted with the traditional, linear practices of some of its partner agencies.

Future Steps

In order to strengthen its approach to implementing *Eco-Logical*, NHA plans to work with a local RPC to compare and overlay transportation corridors and long-range plans as well as to identify environmental impacts.

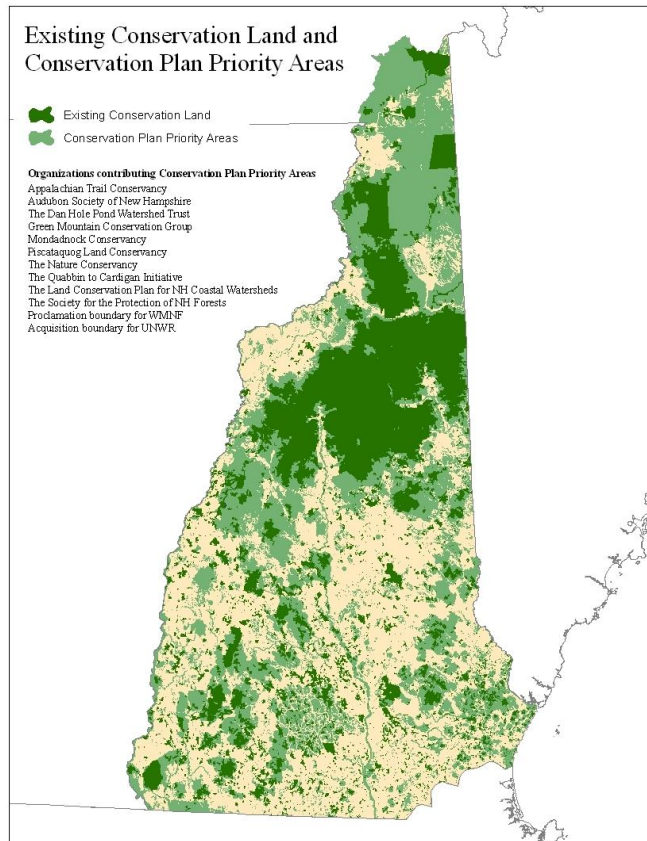


Figure: Existing conservation land and conservation plan priority areas in New Hampshire.